Steungroep voor inheemse volken
Groupe d'appui pour les peuples indigènes
Support group for indigenous peoples
Grupo de apoyo para los pueblos indigenas

To Mr. Kofi Annan
UN Secretary General
United Nations Plaza
N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.
Fax: 1 212 963 48 79

Antwerpen, September 7, 1999.

Dear Mr. Annan,

Once more we are writing you to express our deep concerns about the situation in Indonesia occupied East Timor.

East Timor's long struggle to control its own destiny is at a decisive juncture. After the massive vote for independence, the pro-Indonesian militias created, armed and supported by the Indonesian Army (TNI) have unleashed a new campaign of violence, aimed at thwarting independance. This year, the militias have killed already hundreds of innocent East Timorese civilians. The Indonesian Army is seeking in this way to undermine the possibility of independence for East Timor.

The Indonesian "security" forces are apparently under order to do nothing against the increasingly brutal violence of the militias. The words and deeds of the Indonesian officials have little or no relationship to each other. While the militias were already roaming the streets of Dili since August 31, intensified their activities from September 1 on and had on September 3 actually taken over the towns of Liquiça, Maliana and Gleno in the west and Hera in the east, TNI General Sudjarata declared on September 4: "I have no information that armed militiamen are in the streets, only police and the military are carrying guns". UN officials have confirmed that on the very same day of September 4, a UN convoy going to Dili from Liquiça had been fired on at three seperate checkpoints by Indonesian policemen. A US policeman working with the UN was shot hereby in the abdomen with a bullet fired with a high velocity riffle. While the UN mission building was under siege, the Indonesian Minister of Defence and TNI General Wiranto "confirmed" on Sunday morning September 6, that there are no problems in the capital and no gunman in the streets".

Almost the entire Indonesian leadership has accused the UN of being not impartial and favourise the pro-independence group. Minister of Justice Muladi accused on August 30 UNAMET staff of being composed of pro-independence people. Minister of Foreign Affairs Alatas accused UNAMET officials on September 5 of rigging the referendum and said that the UN is supporting the Falintil guerilla forces by supplying them with uniforms. He blamed the UN for the violence, saying that it failed to explain adequately to the pro-Indonesian group the way it handled complaints of electoral fraud.
The Indonesian television stations of course also maintain their almost complete black-out on the massacres and the terror campaign in East Timor. Instead, they too concentrated their critisism on the UN which is accused of having not been impartial during the referendum.

The calm on election day August 30, following intense international pressure, seemes to show that authorities can switch the violence on and off as they chose. Just to quote TNI General Zacky Anwar Makarim, current chief of the military intelligence service, recently in the "Far Eastern Economic Review": "as militar, as officer of the intelligence, as veteran, I cannot accept to lose East Timor". It is clear that at least part of the militias answer directly to military officers.

There are serious indications that the core of the militias, about 20% of the "militiamembers", exist of well trained military personel and in particular members of the Kopassus elite troops of the Indonesian Army. That is why the security forces do not interfere and why the Indonesian police forces are even afraid to

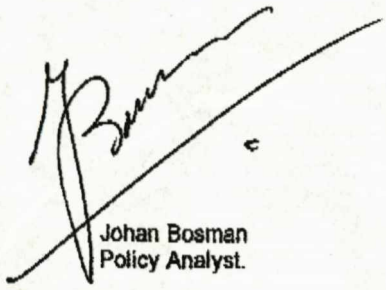
act against the militias. It is a strategy from the military to organise chaos, demonstrating that the police is not able to stop the violence and that no other force than the TNI is able to maintain law and order in East Timor. Apparently the Indonesian combined terrorist forces (TNI and "militias") want to provoke the Falintil guerilla force to draw into the fighting, creating thus a full scale civil war situation. They blocked food supplies from reaching at least two Falintil cantonment sites in the Ermera district in the west and the main Falintil camp in Waimori in the east.

The Indonesian combined terrorist forces continued till today their campaign of terror throughout East Timor driving at least 150.000 East Timorese people from their homes to take shelter: the men in the hills the women and children in the schools, churches, monasteries, public buildings and UN missions. From September 4 on, the Indonesian combined terrorist forces started to attack these shelter places with high velocity riffles, causing hundreds of deaths. On September 5, the Indonesian combined terrorist forces cutted off water and electricity in the Dili neighbourhoods of Becora, Bidau-Masau, Kuluhum, Mascarenhas and Beto, ransacked them and set them on fire. They succeeded to a huge extend to drive out the media people and the international observers in order to prevent the international community of watching how they prepare for huge scale massacres among the pro-independence population. Today September 7, TNI has has deported at least 25.000 inhabitants of Dili to Indonesian West Timor as hostages.

Therefore, Your Excellency, KWIA urges you to do whatever is needed for sending immidiately a UN peace restauring and maintaining force to East Timor and to urge the Indonesian Armed Forces TNI to start immediately with withdrawing from East Timor. If it comes to a new genocide in East Timor, the UN will loose its last grain of credibility it has among the freedom loving peoples of the world.

Sincerely yours,

For KWIA,



Johan Bosman
Policy Analyst.

cc.: Mr. Louis Michel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium.
Mr. Manuel Marin, EU Commissioner for ALA countries.
Mr. Halonen, Acting Chairman of the EU Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers.
Mr. Antonio Guterres, Prime Minister of Portugal.
Mr. Van Aartsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.
Mrs. Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.